Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /014 W ----- 088568

R 190630Z SEP 76 FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA TO SECSTATE 5886 INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: OEXC, SA, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT, SAG MINISTER OF HEALTH

REF: JIDDA 6619-C

- 1. IN FURTHER FOLLOW-UP REFTEL, WE UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT IS ABOUT TO ISSUE INVITATION FOR MINISTER TO VISIT U.S. THIS FALL. WE HOPE THIS TIMING FLEXIBLE, SINCE AS NOTED IN PREVIOUS TELS., EMBASSY HAS NOT YET APPROACHED HIS EXCELLENCY ABOUT POSSIBLE VISIT NEEDING PRIOR APPROVAL FROM YOU.
- 2. ALSO UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING PER DIEM OF NINETY DOLLARS FOR MINISTER AND TWO/THREE MEMBERS OF ACCOMPANYING STAFF. POST STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT BE MORE GENEROUS, PERHAPS WITH THE COOPERATION OF U.S. HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS, THAT WE ASSUME WOULD GLADLY ASSIST IN FINANCING TRIP IF THEY ARE APPROACHED. WE HAD MENTIONED EARLIER TELS. THAT CYTEX CORP. INTERESTED, AS MIGHT BE HOSPITAL CORP. OF AMERICA WHICH INVOLVED IN SAUDI HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT NOW UNDER OTHER AUSPICES. U.S. ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, HEADED BY RUDDICK LAWRENCE WHO ALSO VICE PRES. CONTINENTAL OIL CO., MIGHT ALSO BE HELPFUL BOTH IN SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING.
- 3. SUGGEST STATE ALSO DISCUSS PENDING PROGRAM AND FINANCING LEVELS WITH TRUSTED COLLEAGUES IN SAUDI EMBASSY WASHINGTON WHO COULD OFFER FRANK OPINION OF PROGRAM LOGISTICS. (AHMAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MU'MINA, RECENTLY ASSIGNED THERE FROM MINISTRY FOREIGN

AFFAIRS HERE, WOULD BE ONE UNDERSTANDING CONTACT.)

4. THE MINISTER WILL EXPECT FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS, ESCORT, AND APPROPRIATE TRANSPORTATION AND WILL NOT ANTICIPATE HAVING TO PAY HIS BILLS PERSONALLY.

5. FYI, ALL SAUDI CABINET MINISTERS, AS OF FEW YEARS AGO, RECEIVED \$1,000 A DAY PER DIEM FROM SAG WHILE TRAVELLING ABROAD, IN ADDITION TO PAYMENT OF ALL LODGING, TRANSPORTATION, AND MEAL COSTS.

6. HENCE, WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE IF DEPARTMENT PICKS UP AND PAYS HOTEL ADN TRANSPORT BILL SO THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR MUNDANE TRANSFER OF WHAT COULD APPEAR BE A PITTANCE. HORAN

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